

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM F.
BUCKLEY, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a founder of the modern conservative intellectual movement, William F. Buckley, Jr., who passed away yesterday morning.

Mr. Buckley was a man of all trades—author, soldier, musician, activist, editor, television personality, among others. Above all, he was a true patriot who believed in the ideals of limited government and the promotion of individual freedoms. Those goals were embodied in his extraordinary publication, *National Review*, which brought to light the mainstream conservative values that many Americans cherish and upon which our Nation was founded promoting victory in the Cold War.

Since high school, I have been an avid reader of *National Review*. I was inspired not only by the commonsense ideas that Mr. Buckley espoused, but just as much by his passion and dedication to those principles. He brought an uncanny wit and intellectual quality to his speeches and writings which endeared him to many—even those who disagreed with him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Buckley family during this time. William F. Buckley, Jr., made a positive difference for America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HONORING CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Christian School in Columbus, Georgia, for their recent "Celebrate America" presentation, and their patriotic commitment to their country.

In a critical time in our Nation's history, with a consistent threat against freedom being declared against the United States of America and our allies, it is vital that the citizens of the United States remember that freedom is not free. Men and women of the United States Armed Forces serve around the world in an attempt to keep the citizens of America free and safe. Our soldiers are willing to pay the ultimate price for the freedom that we enjoy each and every day, and as Americans, we must not ever forget their sacrifice. It is of the utmost necessity that we continue to recognize our freedom and those that continue to ensure that our liberty remains. Too often, we overlook our freedom as a common occurrence.

In early 2008, the faculty, staff, and students of Calvary Christian School demonstrated their patriotism on February 7, 2008, and February 15, 2008, in the presentation of "Celebrate America", which was a time of reflection on all things American, including music, free speech, veteran recognition, active-duty military appreciation, and other displays of nationalism. For

this reason, I would like to recognize before the U.S. House of Representatives the commitment of Calvary Christian School, its faculty, staff, and students for their patriotism. I sincerely hope that these actions encourage other schools, organizations, and individuals to follow the example of nationalistic devotion displayed by the school in this presentation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes No. 78 through 84. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 78, the motion to consider the resolution, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 79, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 80, on ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 81, on agreeing to the rule for H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 82, on motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 83, on the Motion to Re-commit on H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 84, on passage of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife as she prepares to give birth to our second child. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 78: "nay"; rollcall 79: "nay"; rollcall 80: "nay"; rollcall 81: "nay"; rollcall 82: "nay"; rollcall 83 "nay"; and rollcall 84: "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NEW EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION ACT"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the lure of employment opportunities in the United States has long been acknowledged as a major reason for immigration—both legal and illegal. Those in Congress know I'm for combating illegal immigration. As the ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, I, along with several of my subcommittee colleagues, offer an important new component in the immigration reform debate.

Employers want, need, and deserve a reliable employee verification system, and I want to give it to them. Every day, countless immigrants enter our country seeking the economic opportunities that a job in this country has to offer. Many play by the rules, wait their turn, and obtain the proper permission to work. That is called legal immigration, and I am all for it.

But when it comes to enforcing the law for those who do not play by the rules, it can't be done. That is because enforcement is based upon a failed system that is prone to both error and fraud. The result is an illegal immigrant population that has swelled by some estimates to over 12 million. This is a path our Nation cannot sustain, and the American people have rightly demanded action.

The bill we are introducing today is designed to achieve three important objectives: first, ensure a legal workforce; second, safeguard workers' identity; and finally, protect Social Security.

First, this legislation draws upon lessons learned from the past to help guarantee a legal U.S. workforce for the future. The current failed, paper-based I-9 screening process is replaced with an Electronic Employee Verification System, to be known as EEVS. This system would rely on the use of fewer, more secure identity documents and would be built upon the new hire reporting process already existing in each State. This reporting process is used by 90 percent of employers and was put in place a dozen years ago to track down deadbeat dads.

For Americans, work authorization would be confirmed only through the Social Security Administration. This ensures that there is no "Big Brother" law enforcement agency building new databases on law-abiding citizens. For non-citizens, work authorization would be confirmed through the Department of Homeland Security that has the databases on visa and immigration status.

Second, the legislation would help safeguard workers' identity. A voluntary system would be created using the latest technology to authenticate and protect a worker's identity. Private sector contractors, certified by the Federal Government, would authenticate the identity of employees by utilizing existing background-check and document screening tools and then safeguard the identity through a biometric identifier, such as a fingerprint or eye scan. The private sector provider would then verify work authorization in EEVS.

Think back to December 2006 and the now widely known Swift and Company raids. Nearly 1,300 workers in 6 States were arrested, including many in Cactus, Texas. A Swift and Company human resources official testified before a House panel that Swift had willingly participated in the government's voluntary verification program for Social Security numbers since 1997. This shows the system is broken and must be fixed.

Third, this legislation would protect the Social Security program by preventing wages earned through future unauthorized work from being used to determine benefits. Also the bill would protect the Social Security Administration's primary mission and trust funds by authorizing employment verification only through funds appropriated in advance.

So far, efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation have failed. Today we offer a new way forward for this Congress